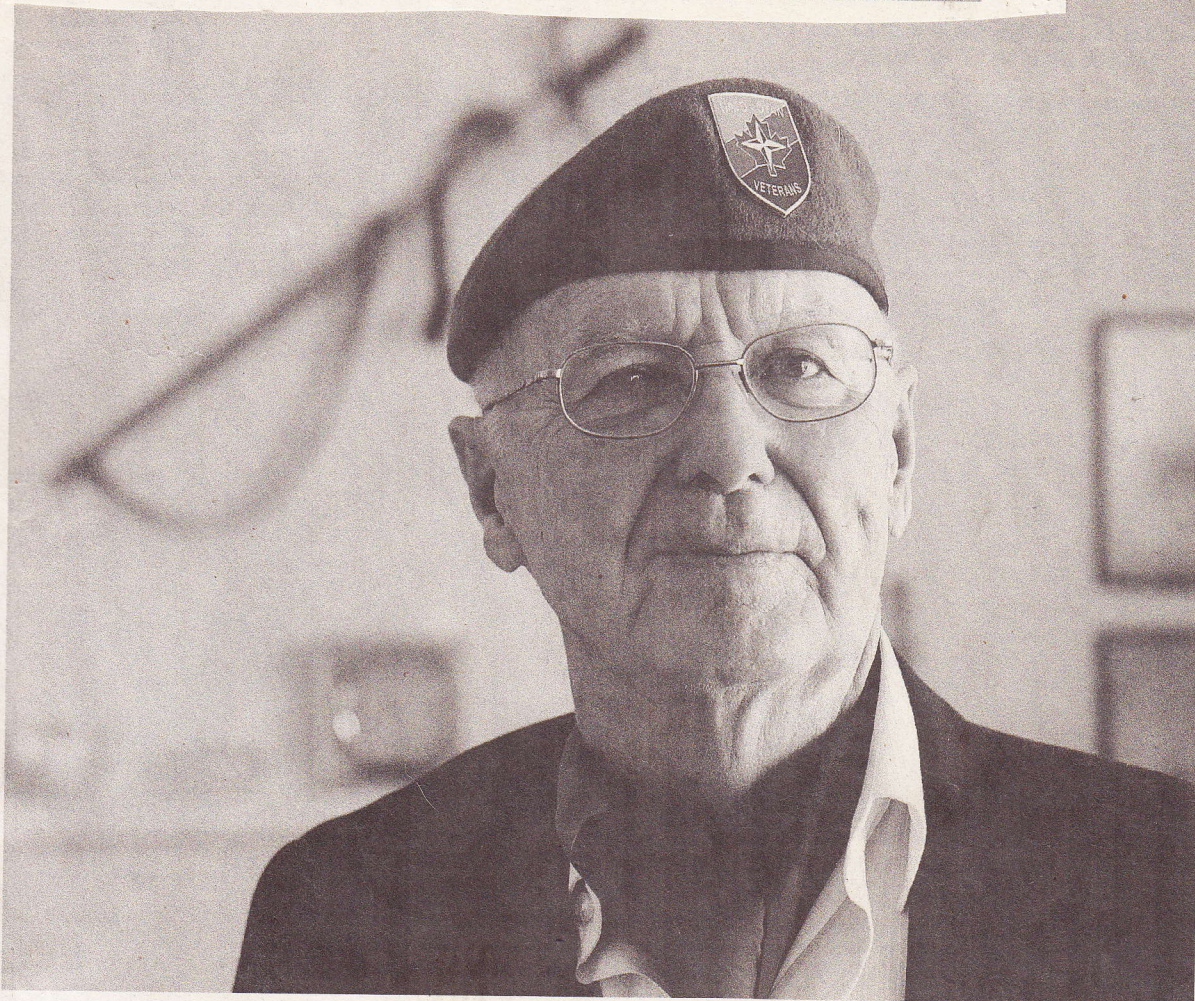
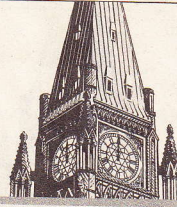


LETTERS



PAT McGRATH, THE OTTAWA CITIZEN

Gord Jenkins says the stress and physical toll of duty on many service personnel as they reach retirement is unique and persists into their final days.

All veterans need long-term care

All veterans need long-term care

Re: Coming Home series,
March 2.

I'd like to highlight a critical lack of support for post-Korean War veterans.

Most veterans and perhaps some of the general public are aware that the pension act rightfully provides a whole host of benefits and support services for our war veterans — those who served in the Second World War and the Korean War.

However, as the act does not accommodate the needs of modern-day veterans who have served since Korea in times of peace and conflict, the government implemented the New Veterans Charter. While the charter has ensured a number of provisions in support of veterans, there is one very critical omission.

The government has provided that there will be priority access to long-term care for all overseas war veterans in need of such care, but no such provision has been made for our modern vets in the New Veterans Charter.

Members of the previous Canadian Forces and now the Royal Canadian Navy, the Royal Can-

WATCH Gord Jenkins talk about support for veterans at

OTTAWACITIZEN.COM

adian Air Force and the Canadian Army have served and continue to serve at the will of the government in a complex variety of operational roles. Combat, armed missions, covert or active surveillance in highly dangerous environments, and tactical engagements at sea, in the air and on land are typical of the modern-day operational theatre.

The stress and physical toll of such duty on many of our service personnel as they reach retirement is unique and persists into their final days. For some, as the end approaches, the need for professional long-term care is urgent. But, unlike the final level of care committed to our war veterans, our government has not accepted responsibility for providing the same level of long-term care to our present-day veterans. The resultant cost and emotional burden is significant.

Health care is a provincial re-

sponsibility except in the case of Canadian military veterans. That responsibility rests with the federal government and it cannot be passed to the provinces.

GORD JENKINS,

Ottawa
President,
NATO Veterans
Organization of Canada